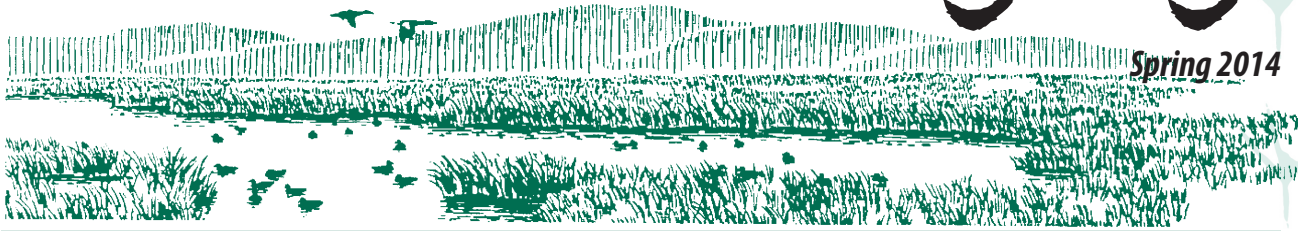


The Flyway

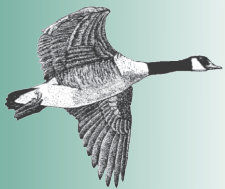
Spring 2014



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

Inside...

- Habitat Critical for Shorebirds..... 1
- John Marzluff at Shorebird Festival... 2
- Volunteers Celebrated 2
- Spring Guided Walks 3
- On the Wing..... 6
- Membership 7
- Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival..... 8



Save the Dates!
The Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival will be held April 25–27 in Hoquiam.

Refuge's Estuarine Habitat Critical for Shorebirds

When a person first takes an interest in birds, they might start with the common birds that turn up at the backyard birdfeeder. During a first foray to a wild land, the easy-to-see waterfowl or flashy warblers are a common first target. If a bird isn't colorful or if it doesn't sing, then what's the point? When asked for the first time about shorebirds, a new birder might scratch their head and think, "What's that?" They are small and brown. They don't sing. They are notoriously hard to identify.

Weighing in at about one ounce, the least among them is undeniably the Least Sandpiper. Their tiny size is perhaps their defining characteristic; they have yellow legs, but these can often be mud-stained and hard to see. Otherwise, the Least Sandpipers are best identified by what they are not. They lack the long, dropping bill of a Dunlin; they lack the long neck of a pectoral or spotted sandpiper; the back of a Western Sandpiper is typically more strikingly speckled with rufous highlights. The Semipalmated, Baird's, and Least sandpipers would look nearly identical were it not for the Least's yellow legs ... And so it is that many beginning birders, initially enthusiastic, choose to skip shorebirds and

move on to something else, something easier ...

But Least Sandpipers, and the larger family of shorebirds, are significant. They represent an evolutionary paradox: their success comes from their special adaptation to a specific habitat, and this also is what makes them most vulnerable. The shape of a shorebirds bill is adapted to feeding very specifically on the invertebrates that live in the sand or mud on shorelines. In the

case of the Least Sandpiper, the bill is best suited to the mud found in estuaries and marshland—not on beach sand. Mud additionally matters most to the Least because, unlike any other type of shorebird, they use the surface tension of water to deliver food from the tips of their beaks to their mouth. Where there is no water-saturated mud, there can be no Least Sand-

pipers. In this way, they are intimately connected to estuary habitat like that found at Grays Harbor and at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

Until modern times, the special adaptations of shorebirds like the Least meant exclusive access to a cornucopia of food.



Least Sandpipers foraging on the estuary mudflat

Continued on page 6

John Marzluff to offer "Gifts of the Crow" at Shorebird Festival

Friday, April 25, 7:30pm, Hoquiam High School

Crows are mischievous, playful, social, and passionate. They have brains that are huge for their body size and exhibit an avian kind of eloquence. They mate for life and associate with relatives and neighbors for years. They often live near people and the ongoing connection between humans and crows—a cultural co-evolution—has shaped both species for millions of years. The characteristics of crows that allow this symbiotic relationship are language, delinquency, frolic, passion, wrath, risk-taking, and awareness—seven traits that humans find strangely familiar.

With his extraordinary research on the intelligence and startling abilities of corvids—crows, ravens, and jays—scientist John Marzluff tells

amazing stories of these brilliant birds in *Gifts of the Crow*, shining a light on their fascinating characteristics and behaviors. Teamed with artist and fellow natural-

ist Tony Angell, they offer an in-depth look at these complex creatures and our shared behaviors, illustrated with gorgeous line drawings.

With its abundance of funny, awe-inspiring, and poignant stories, *Gifts of the Crow* portrays creatures who are nothing short of amazing. A testament to years of painstaking research, this fully illustrated, riveting talk is a thrilling look at one of nature's most wondrous creatures.

Tickets are available at the door or at shorebirdfestival.com. \$15 fee includes a desert reception prior to the lecture.



Volunteers Celebrated at Annual Event

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is a place with many fantastic resources; we have birds, native plants, fascinating history, a river and an estuary. But without a doubt our most valuable resource is our volunteers. Refuge volunteers run the Visitor Center, rove the trails, teach children at the Education Center, help out with special events like the upcoming Shorebird Festival and Watershed Festival, and lead our weekend guided walks in the spring and summer. Without our volunteers, the Refuge would be unrecognizable.

In 2013, visitation to the Refuge held steady at over 200,000 visitors. The Refuge's invaluable volunteers contributed 15,910 hours to accommodate this visitation. Within the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge's volunteers have achieved legendary status.

On February 28th, volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service to the Refuge at the annual volunteer recognition event. The volunteers who earned top honors all contributed over 400 hours

in 2013. Thank you to Shep Thorp (440 hours) and to Distinguished Volunteers Art Pavey (490 hours), Dennis Ellison (562 hours), and Karen Yochem (831 hours). For the second year in a row, Barb Peterson was recognized as this year's Volunteer of the Year with 483 hours contributed through a broad range of activities including the Visitor Center, special events, maintaining our Education Center aquarium and managing the children's book section of our Nature Shop.

The volunteers at Nisqually are the backbone of the

Refuge. In terms of hours contributed, they effectively double the size of our staff, and it is only through their altruism that we are able to effectively execute preservation efforts and public outreach. For all the staff at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, the dedication and generosity of our volunteers are an inspiration.



From left to right, Art Pavey, Dennis Ellison, Refuge Manager Glynnis Nakai, Karen Yochem, and Volunteer of the Year Barb Peterson.

Spring Guided Walks

April

Saturday, April 5

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10am – 1pm

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the *wichity wichity* of the common yellowthroat! Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

It's in Your Nature: Sights and Sounds of Spring

1pm – 2:30pm

During this guided walk, your senses will be filled with bird song, bird sightings, and flowering native plants that are present on the Refuge during Spring. Learn about and enjoy the variety of natural wonders that can be found on a walk around the Twin Barns Loop Trail with naturalist Juni Greenough. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 12

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

9am – 10:30am

The mysteries of nature are reflected in the character, beauty, and interplay of everything that surrounds us. With the soul of an artist, the eye of a photographer, and the heart of a naturalist, i'ina van Lawick will reveal a side of the Refuge you've never seen before. Meet in the Visitor Center.

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

1pm – 3:30pm

Life on the Refuge reaches its maximum intensity during the vital, turbulent spring. Flowers explode and the creatures of the refuge dance to nature's eternal drum. Experience it all on a guided walk led by naturalist Susan Wineke. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 13

Birding Basics: Learning to See

9am – 11am

What subtle cues do experienced birders use to quickly and accurately identify species? Birding is nothing

less than the art of seeing, so the techniques used by birders increase awareness of all things natural. Refuge Ranger Michael Schramm will guide you through the estuary's diverse habitats on an odyssey of avian discovery, all the while teaching the ins and outs of birding. Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center—and remember to bring binoculars!

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm – 2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty; explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 19

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

9am – 10:30am

The mysteries of nature are reflected in the character, beauty, and interplay of everything that surrounds us. With the soul of an artist, the eye of a photographer, and the heart of a naturalist, i'ina van Lawick will reveal a side of the Refuge you've never seen before. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 20

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

10am – 11:30am

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty; home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Donna Snow. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Friday, April 25 – Sunday, April 27 Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

All day, Hoquiam High School

Don't miss your chance to celebrate the spring shorebird migration that happens every year along our coast. Join in the many activities offered at the Festival including field trips, lectures and a birding marketplace. Best

shorebird viewing at Grays Harbor NWR is Friday from 12:50pm to 4:50pm, Saturday from 1:45pm to 5:45pm, and Sunday from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. For more detailed information about the schedule of events, visit www.shorebirdfestival.com

Saturday, April 26

Birding Basics: Learning to See

9am – 11am

What subtle cues do experienced birders use to quickly and accurately identify species? Birding is nothing less than the art of seeing, so the techniques used by birders increase awareness of all things natural. Refuge Ranger Michael Schramm will guide you through the estuary's diverse habitats on an odyssey of avian discovery, all the while teaching the ins and outs of birding. Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center—and remember to bring binoculars!

Sunday, April 27

Our Amazing Plant World

1pm – 2:30pm

Spring is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life is all its diversity! Join Sally Vogel on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plant-insect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

May

Saturday, May 3

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

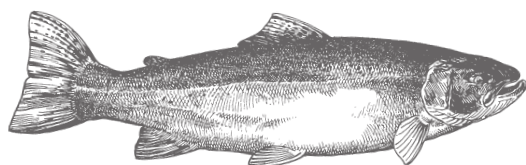
9am – 11am

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Phil Kelley for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

It's in Your Nature: Sights and Sounds of Spring

1pm – 2:30pm

During this guided walk, your senses will be filled with bird song, bird sightings, and flowering native plants that are present on the Refuge during Spring. Learn about and enjoy the variety of natural wonders that can be found on a walk around the Twin Barns Loop Trail with naturalist Juni Greenough. Meet in the Visitor Center.



Saturday, May 10

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10am – 1pm

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the *wichity wichity* of the common yellowthroat! Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 11

Our Amazing Plant World

1pm – 2:30pm

Spring is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life is all its diversity! Join Sally Vogel on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plant-insect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 17

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am – 12noon

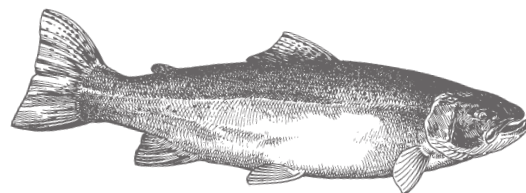
Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or of hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second)! Join experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: The birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 18

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm – 2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty; explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.



Saturday, May 24
***It's in Your Nature:
Exploring the Wild***

10am – 12 noon

From bitterns to butterflies, salmonberries to salmon fish, nature on the Refuge takes many forms. Join naturalists Art Pavey, Jan Kramer, and Cheri Greenwood on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the natural splendor of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 25
***It's in Your Nature:
Exploring the Wild***

10am – 11:30am

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty; home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Sonna Snow. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 31
Birding Basics: Learning to See

9am – 11am

What subtle cues do experienced birders use to quickly and accurately identify species? Birding is nothing less than the art of seeing, so the techniques used by birders increase awareness of all things natural. Refuge Ranger Michael Schramm will guide you through the estuary's diverse habitats on an odyssey of avian discovery, all the while teaching the ins and outs of birding. Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center—and remember to bring binoculars!

June

Saturday, June 7
***Birds of a Feather:
Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

8:30am – 12noon

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or of hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second)! Join experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: The birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

***It's in Your Nature:
Sights and Sounds of Spring***

1pm – 2:30pm

During this guided walk, your senses will be filled with bird song, bird sightings, and flowering native plants that

are present on the Refuge during Spring. Learn about and enjoy the variety of natural wonders that can be found on a walk around the Twin Barns Loop Trail with naturalist Juni Greenough. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, June 8
***The Nisqually and Medicine
Creek: Where Nature, Culture
and History Converge***

1pm – 2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty; explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 14
***Birds of a Feather:
Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

10am – 1pm

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the *wichity wichity* of the common yellowthroat! Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 21
***It's in Your Nature:
Exploring the Wild***

10am – 12 noon

From bitterns to butterflies, salmonberries to salmon fish, nature on the Refuge takes many forms. Join naturalists Art Pavey, Jan Kramer, and Cheri Greenwood on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the natural splendor of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 28
***It's in Your Nature:
Exploring the Wild***

9:30am – 12noon

Life on the Refuge reaches its maximum intensity during the vital, turbulent spring. Flowers explode and the creatures of the refuge dance to nature's eternal drum. Experience it all on a guided walk led by naturalist Susan Wineke. Meet in the Visitor Center.

On the Wing

By Glynnis Nakai
Refuge Manager

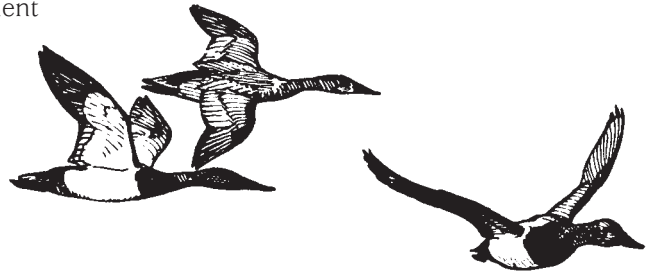
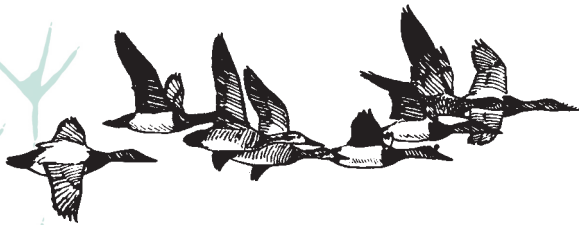
Mahalo—Thank you! I wanted this space and opportunity in the spring Flyway to thank everyone for the warm welcome you have given me upon my arrival to the Pacific Northwest! It has been seven months and I continue to be impressed with the diversity and quality of the natural and human resources on the Refuge.

It was wonderful to see so many of our volunteers at the annual Volunteer Banquet and for those unable to attend, we hope to see you next year. This was a time to formally give thanks and recognize all our volunteers and their contributions to the Refuge in hours but also an acknowledgement that we wouldn't have as much to offer visitors if not for you. Your time and commitment



is invaluable and one of the Refuge's most valuable resources! The caliber of experience, dedication, and passion that you bring to the Refuge is most admirable and for that we thank you so much.

With you at our side, we can continue to offer wonderful opportunities to our visitors and school groups, hold special events, and provide that personal interaction throughout 2014. This summer we will have a special celebration to dedicate the Visitor Center as the Norm Dicks Visitor Center. This renaming is due to Norm's support of Puget Sound and his success in directing funds to the Refuge and Nisqually Indian Tribe. With his support as Representative in District 6, we have not only returned the tides to the Nisqually Delta but greatly enhanced our visitors' experience with the construction of the Estuary Boardwalk. The results have been evidenced by the increased visitation of more than 200,000 visitors per year. Stay tuned for a date and more information! ✎



Shorebirds

From page 1

No other category of bird could make use of mudflats, marshland, and shorelines. The abundance of food supported an enormous population of birds. In a mesmerizing spectacle, these enormous populations migrate up and down the coasts in transcontinental migrations no longer seen elsewhere in the animal kingdom. But their migration is delicate and vulnerable, fueled as it is by the bounty of estuarine habitat.

As human populations have grown, urbanization has led to wetland degradation and destruction, robbing shorebirds of their only food source during migration when food is most critical. Predictably, those shorebird populations utilizing flyways where the most habitat has been lost to urban expansion are the same populations most in decline. But flyways where the habitat has, so far, been left largely intact are no less fragile than those in decline, so with this understanding, remaining estuaries like Grays Harbor have been recognized as valuable and worthy of protection; others, like Nisqually, are being restored. A visit to these refuges during the Spring and Fall migrations offers a glimpse back in time to the era of mass migrations. You can see this spectacle and learn more about shorebirds, including the Least Sandpiper, at this year's Shorebird Festival, which will be held April 25-27 at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. ✎

Published quarterly by
Nisqually National
Wildlife Refuge Complex,
with funding by
Friends of Nisqually NWRC.

Phone: 360.753.9467

Fax: 360.534.9302

www.fws.gov/refuge/nisqually

www.fws.gov/refuge/grays_harbor

Volume 7, Number 2

Editor: Michael Schramm

Editorial Advisor: Sheila McCartan

Graphic design: Lee Miller

Save trees, think green.

To receive *The Flyway*
electronically, email
nisqually@fws.gov

New and Renewing Friends Membership Winter 2014

Senior/Student (\$15)

Connie Nuse
Gimi Bashaw
Don & Darlene Edgar
Shirlene Anderson
Eden Greer
Peter Taylor
Fred Tobiason
Dorothy Tobiason
Irene von Tobel
Judy J. Moore
Walter A. Kuciej
Betty Whalen
Merrill Davison
Karen Drum
Lin & Maryke Hines
Lynn K. Graves
Robert A. Morgan
Elston Hill
Jackline Hill
George Rybolt
Floella Oatfield

B. Jean Black
Elizabeth Whalen

Individual (\$25)

Hancy Henderson
Chris Warlow
Glenn Nelson
Jay M. Stene
Len Elliott
Karen Guillies
Curt Johnson
Judy Schramm
Sara Jaye Sanford
Stephen L. Curry
Emmalou Lyle

Family (\$50)

Kristin Knopf &
Brian Hanners
Janice E. T. &
Horace C. Thuline
Casey J. Schaufler
Alice A. Nevue
Beverly Choltco-Devlin

Don Blanke
Victoria L. Lincoln
Nancy Wright
Marc & Jennifer Kropack
James & Ruth Hoss
Janet L. Wheeler
Anne L. Jacobson
Larry & Peggy Erickson
Jim & Karen Greenfield
Lin Livingston
Ken & Nell Batker
Carol & Robert Hopkins
Sheila & Lonnie Harper
Lindsey & Doug Ford
Quentin Powers
Michael & Barbara
Silverstein

Supporting (\$100)

Karen Pauler
Dwight & Leta Faust
Shelley & Bill Carr
Ed Sakai

Jack & Donna Rice
Bunny Hyink
Marian Shinobu
Nancy Alden
Zula Johnston
Ken & Nell Batker

Partner (\$250)

Fred & Margaret Hellberg

Friends of Nisqually NWR

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1998 to promote conservation of the natural and cultural resources and fund educational and outreach programs at **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex.**

Join Friends of Nisqually NWRC!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

- ☐ Please send information on making Friends of Nisqually NWRC a beneficiary of my estate.
☐ Check here to receive an electronic version of *The Flyway* newsletter by email.

Individual/Family Memberships

- ☐ \$15 Student/Senior
☐ \$25 Individual
☐ \$50 Family
☐ \$100 Supporting
☐ \$250 Partner
☐ \$500 Patron
☐ \$1000 Benefactor

Corporate/Business Memberships

- ☐ \$250 Business Sponsor
☐ \$500 Community Partner
☐ \$1000 Sustaining Business
☐ \$2500 Corporate Patron
☐ \$5000 + Corporate Benefactor

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Nisqually NWRC, 100 Brown Farm Rd, Olympia, WA 98516

Your tax deductible contribution will help preserve the unique habitats, fish, and wildlife of the Nisqually Delta and the Grays Harbor Tideflats.

OFFICE USE Rec'd _____ Mo _____ New _____ Renew _____ Ent _____ Mld _____

**Friends of Nisqually
National Wildlife Refuge**

100 Brown Farm Road
Olympia WA 98516

Non-Profit Org
US Postage

PAID

Olympia WA
Permit #206

Return Service Requested

*... conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and
their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people...*

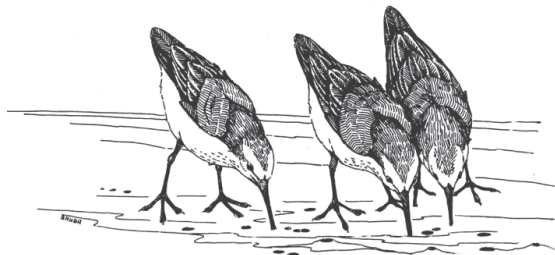
The Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

April 25–27, 2014

Hoquiam, WA

The 19th Annual Shorebird Festival promises you a great nature experience. Witness the migrating shorebirds at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. Take part in a variety of events including field trips, lectures, exhibitors, vendors, a banquet and an auction.

**SAVE
THE
DATES!**



**www.shorebirdfestival.com
(360) 289-5048**